



humiliation. Finally, in the hearing on this matter, Plaintiff's counsel explained that Plaintiff was a party in a prior case in this Court, which concerned the same sexual abuse allegations that are at issue in this case. Counsel claims that District Judge Stephen Limbaugh ordered the parties to proceed anonymously in that case and that if Plaintiff were required to reveal his name in this case, he may be violating Judge Limbaugh's Order.

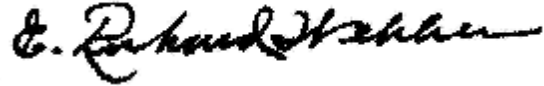
Rule 10(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedures provides that a complaint shall state the names of the all the parties. Courts have "occasionally recognized an exception to the requirement that the parties' names be stated in the case caption for various reasons, including limited 'matters of a sensitive and highly personal nature.'" *W.G.A. v. Priority Pharm., Inc.*, 184 F.R.D. 616, 617 (E.D. Mo. 1999) (citing *Heather K. v. City of Mallard, Iowa*, 887 F. Supp. 1249, 1255 (N.D. Iowa 1995)). The Eighth Circuit has not articulated a standard to provide instruction on the issue of whether a plaintiff may proceed in a case anonymously. Other courts have instructed that the district court should ascertain whether the plaintiff "has a substantial privacy right which outweighs the customary constitutionally-embedded presumption of openness in judicial proceedings." *See Doe v. Frank*, 951 F.2d 32, 323 (11th Cir. 1992); *see also James v. Jacobson*, 6 F.3d 233, 239 (4th Cir. 1993) (the applicable factor is "whether the plaintiff would be required to disclose information of the utmost intimacy").

The Court has reviewed the circumstances of this case and concludes that Plaintiff has presented satisfactory evidence to show that the need for anonymity outweighs the public's legitimate interest in knowing all the facts surrounding the court proceedings in this case. The Court will, therefore, permit Plaintiff to proceed using the pseudonym John Doe H.M.

Accordingly,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Plaintiff's Motion to Proceed Under Pseudonym [doc. #2] is **GRANTED**.

Dated this 17th day of May, 2007.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Richard Webber", written in a cursive style.

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E. RICHARD WEBBER  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE